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PENCE LAUDS PASSAGE OF FUNDING FOR HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT

Washington, Sep 24, 2003 - Washington, D.C.— Congressman Mike Pence today praised the passage of the bill that provides funding for the new Department of Homeland Security. The appropriations bill is the first that funds the new department, the largest reorganization of the federal government since the creation of the Department of Defense in the 1940s. The bill passed 417-8.

“I am pleased that Congress provided full and adequate funding to protect our homeland,” said Pence. “It is my obligation as a lawmaker to provide President Bush with all the tools he needs to win this war and this bill does just that.”

“The American people need to be assured that the government is doing everything it can to ensure peace and stability here at home as we continue to fight the war on terrorism around the globe.”

Highlights of the bill

State and Local First Responders

- \$4.2 billion for the Office for Domestic Preparedness, firefighters and emergency management

Border Protection

- \$9 billion for border protection and related activities, including \$2 billion for U.S. Coast Guard homeland security activities

Transportation Security

- \$5.2 billion for TSA and the Federal Air Marshall Program

Science and Technology

- \$918 million for Science and Technology targeted to research, development, and deployment of innovative technologies, including those proposed by universities, national laboratories, not-for-profit organizations, and private companies

Infrastructure

- \$839 million for protecting the nation’s critical infrastructure and key assets

Immigration, Disaster Mitigation and Relief, Drug Interdiction, Law Enforcement, Maritime Safety and Security, and Trade

- \$811 million to modernize border, customs, and immigration information technology, including \$330 million for the US VISIT program and \$318 million for the Automated Commercial Environment
- \$2.6 billion for traditional Coast Guard operating activities, including maritime safety, drug interdiction, and fisheries, environmental, and humanitarian missions
- \$1.14 billion for the U.S. Secret Service
- \$1.8 billion for Disaster Relief
- \$21 million to enforce laws related to forced child labor, intellectual property rights, and textile transshipment
- \$7 million to support investigations related to missing and exploited children
- \$236 million for immigration services

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